

**James L. Greeson, Indiana State Fire
Marshal**



October 2012

REVISION OF HAUNTED HOUSE ENFORCEMENT POLICY

To: All persons operating haunted houses in the State of Indiana

Re: Enforcement policy review

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update on the enforcement policy that was detailed in the memo dated April 20, 2011. Upon further review I have determined that the provisions of Chapter 317 of the 2008 Indiana Fire Code will be the standard that haunted houses will be inspected to in 2012. During the 2012 Halloween season, the Fire and Building Code Enforcement Section of the Division of Fire and Building Safety will be collecting data about the number and type of haunted houses and similar kinds of facilities across Indiana. I hope to obtain sufficient information as a result of that collection effort to be able to draft proposals for code changes to more effectively protect public safety in both existing and new facilities.

Please feel free to call or e-mail myself at jgreeson@dhs.in.gov or David Smith, Section Chief of Code Enforcement, dsmith@dhs.in.gov if you have questions concerning this memo.

Sincerely,

James L. Greeson
Indiana State Fire Marshal

SECTION 317

HAUNTED HOUSES AND SIMILAR TEMPORARY INSTALLATIONS

This section applies to haunted houses and similar installations set up for temporary use, not exceeding ninety (90) days. Any interior within a structure not designed for this specific use shall comply with the following and all other applicable rules:

- (1) In any facility using the maze concept, there shall be no dead-end corridors and there shall be an obvious exit out of the maze for every fifty (50) feet (fifteen and twenty-four hundredths (15.24) meters) of linear travel. All stairways shall be illuminated at a level of at least one (1) foot-candle (eleven (11) lux).
- (2) A group shall consist of twenty (20) individuals or fewer. Each group shall be accompanied or supervised by a staff person who is eighteen (18) years of age or older. This staff person shall have in his or her possession an operable flashlight and shall be completely familiar with the facility.
- (3) There shall be no smoking allowed at any time by anyone inside the building.
- (4) All electrical installations shall meet 675 IAC 17, the Indiana Electrical Code.
- (5) The servicing fire department shall be contacted at least three (3) working days prior to the placing of the facility in operation for an inspection and planning of evacuation procedures. A sketch of the floor plan shall be provided to the servicing fire department to facilitate these procedures.
- (6) The total number of occupants in the facility at any time shall be limited to the number allowed by the total exits from the installation, as determined by the Indiana Building Code (675 IAC 13) in effect at the time of construction of the building, building system, or alterations.
- (7) Fire extinguishers shall be distributed throughout the building so that not more than seventy-five (75) feet (twenty-two and eighty-six hundredths (22.86) meters) must be traversed to each fire extinguisher.
- (8) There shall be no open flame devices or temporary heaters used in the building.
- (9) Automatic smoke detectors shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 72 (675 IAC 22-2.2). All smoke detectors shall be interconnected so that when one is activated, all are activated. When activated, the alarm shall be loud enough to be heard over all other sounds or the activation shall automatically shut down all sound devices within the facility.
- (10) All areas of a maze shall be at least three (3) feet (ninety-one and four-tenths (91.4) centimeters) wide and five (5) feet (one and five hundred twenty-four thousandths (1.524) meters) high, except that a section not exceeding four (4) feet (one and twenty-two hundredths (1.22) meters) in length may be two (2) feet (sixty and ninety-six hundredths (60.96) centimeters) high and two (2) feet (sixty and ninety-six hundredths (60.96) centimeters) wide. There shall not be more than one (1) such four (4) foot (one and twenty-two hundredths (1.22) meter) section in every fifty (50) linear feet (fifteen and twenty-four hundredths (15.24) meters).
- (11) All material used in all display areas of a haunted house and all material used in the construction of a maze shall be inherently flame resistant or made so by treatment with a flame retardant. All substances used to make materials flame resistant shall be applied in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, and the containers and proof of purchase of the substances shall be retained for inspection by the code official.